

Message Text

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SUBJ: US-YUGOSLAV SCIENCE: JUNE 19-20 MEETING OF US-YUGOSLAV
JOINT BOARD

REF : BELGRADE A-237

1. SUMMARY: DURING THE SUBJECT MEETING THE YUGOSLAV SIDE ARRANGED
A MEETING FOR THE U.S. JOINT BOARD MEMBERS WITH ASSISTANT FEDERAL
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND CULTURE)
ZIVAN BERISAVLJEVIC. A SECOND MEETING WAS ARRANGED WITH AMBASSADOR
KRSTO BULAJIC, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAISECTC. BOTH YUGOSLAVS
MADE STRONG APPEAL FOR SUBSTANTIAL NEW US MONEY FOR THE
JOINT SCIENCE PROGRAM. US BOARD MEMBER DR. OSWALD GANLEY (STATE/
OES) CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT WE WOULD SEEK NEW FUNDS BUT THAT
THE AMOUNT OBTAINED WOULD AT MOST BE ONLY A SMALL FRANCION OF
PRESENT US SPENDING.
END SUMMARY.

2. BERISAVLJEVIC SAID THE US-YUGOSLAV SCIENCE PROGRAM OCCUPIES A
HIGH PLACE IN OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID A SIGNIFI-
CANT DECLINE IN THE PROGRAM WOULD BE HARD FOR YUGOSLAVS TO UNDER-
STAND AND COULD AFFECT BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT
IT IS HARDER FOR THE GOY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM THAN IT IS
FOR THE WEALTHIER US, ADDING THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BESETTING THE
US ALSO PREVAIL IN YUGOSLAVIA.

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3. BERISAVLJEVIC NOTED "DELICACY OF YUGOSLAV POSITION IN EUROPE"

AND SAID HIGH LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH US IS OFTEN REASON FOR "PRESSURES FROM OUTSIDE" TO DIMINISH SUCH COOPERATION, WHICH HE BELIEVES WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR US OR GOY.

(EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF SUCH "PRESSURE." WE DOUBT THAT SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO PRESSURE GOY ABOUT US-GOY SCIENCE PROGRAM ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS MIGHT WELL MENTION IT IN PEROGATIVE TERMS.) BERISAVLJEVIC SAID GOY LOOKED FORWARD TO VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD TO GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO POLITICAL SIDE OF OUT RELATIONSHIP.

4. DR GANTLEY DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE US IN SEEKING NEW MONEY FOR THE SCIENCE PROGRAM AND SAID THAT EVEN WITH OUT BEST EFFORTS, A DECLINE IN US FUNDING WAS INEVITABLE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS DECLINE COULD BE MANAGED SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YUGOSLAVS TO ACHIEVE A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

5. DR. GANLEY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED BY AMB. KRSTO BULAJIC, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAISECTC WHO MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME REQUEST FOR NEW US MONEY THAT BERISAVLJEVIC HAD MADE, OMITTING ONLY THE "OUTSIDE PRESSURES."

6. BECAUSE OF THE PERSISTENCE OF THE GOY IN SEEKING NEW US FUNDS, AND THE NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SUCH FUNDS (ON THE PRESENT HIGH LEVEL) ARE NOT AVAILABLE, DR. GANLEY REITERATED POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN IN PREVIOUS CALL ON BULAJIC THAT WHEN THE STATE DEPT. GOES TO CONGRESS TO SEEK DOLLARS FOR SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS, AS IT MUST SINCE EXCESS DINARS NO LONGER AVAILABLE, IT WILL BE COMPETING WITH U.S. INSTITUTIONS ALSO ENGAGED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. CONGRESS NOT LIKELY BE RESPONSIVE OUR REQUESTS. GANLEY STRESSED THAT OUR BEST EFFORTS UNLIKELY OBTAIN MORE THAN \$200,000-300.000 PER YEAR. WE INFORMING GOY OF THIS EXPECTED DECLINE NOW, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MISREADING OF U.S. INTENTIONS BY GOY WHEN DECLINE OCCURS.

7. AN EFFORT BY AMB. BULAJIC TO DISCUSS NEW US MONEY AS "AID" TO YUGOSLAV INSTITUTIONS WAS POLITELY BUT FIRMLY REBUTTED BY DR. GANLEY.

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8. COMMENT: APPEARS GOY HAS INSTRUCTED ITS SPOKESMEN TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET NEW US MONEY FOR THE SCIENCE PROGRAM. WE HOPE THAT THE CONVERSATIONS REPORTED ABOVE WILL HELP CONVINCE THE GOY THAT OUR BEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NEW MONEY WILL GET ONLY VERY MODEST RESULTS, AND THAT NO REPEAT NO POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM THIS.

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